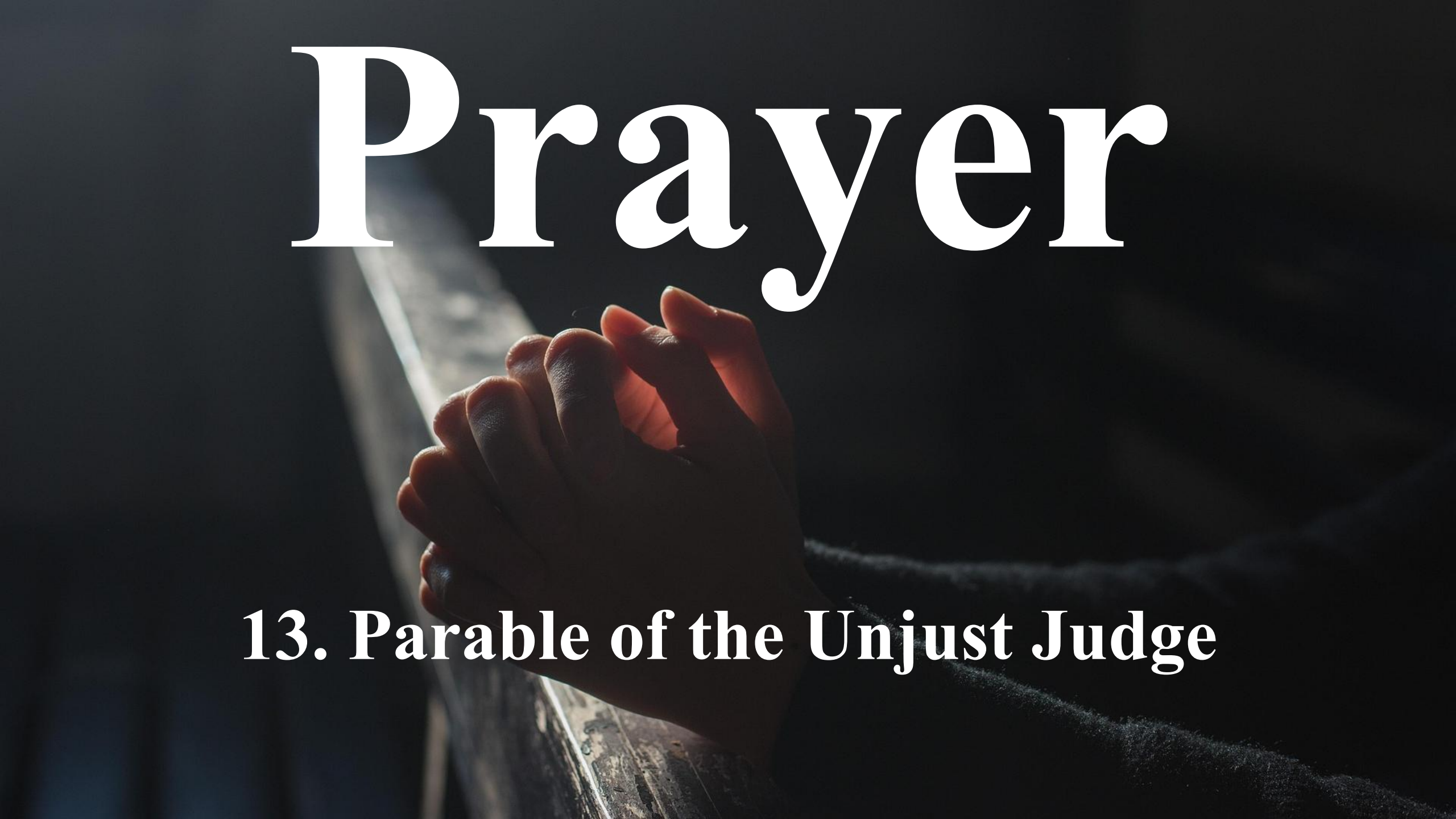


Prayer

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together in a prayer position. The hands are positioned in the lower center of the frame, with fingers interlaced. A strong, diagonal beam of light from the upper left corner illuminates the hands, creating a dramatic contrast with the deep shadows of the surrounding environment. The person is wearing a dark, textured garment, possibly a robe or a heavy sweater, which is visible at the bottom right. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the hands and the light.

13. Parable of the Unjust Judge

Luke 18:7 "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?"

Meaning: Jesus gave this parable of the unjust judge in Luke 18:1-8 to teach, "that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." The story is of a widow who asked an unjust judge to avenge her of her adversary. Though he was unjust, he did so because of her "continual coming." How much more will God avenge His own children that cry unto Him "day and night" though He bear long with them?

Application: There is power in persistent prayer. Jesus knew that we would grow weary in praying. Through this story we see that her widowhood, weakness, friendlessness, and enemies did not account for anything with the unjust judge, but her persistence did! Unbelief will squelch persistent prayer. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). God's answers to prayer may be delayed, but not denied unless we stop coming to Him with our requests.

Other Verses for Study: Genesis 18:16-33; 32:26;
Matthew 15:21-28; Luke 11:1-10; Hebrews 11:6

1. Why did Jesus give this parable?

2. There is power in _____ prayer.

3. What will keep a Christian from persistently praying?

"Persistence is made up of intensity, perseverance, and patience."